

## Gordon Alston

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*A*  
*Celebration of Life*

*Sunrise*  
*Mar. 11, 1939*

*Sunset*  
*Feb. 29, 2004*



**Mr. Gordon Alston**

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**Friday, March 5, 2004**

**11:00 AM**

**Brannen Chapel United Methodist Church  
20 Elm Street  
Statesboro, Georgia 30458**

**Reverend Donald Mathis, Pastor and Eulogist**

**INTERMENT – Bulloch Memorial Gardens  
Highway 80 West, Statesboro, Georgia 30458**

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*"A Final Tribute"*

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## 23 Psalms

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the  
paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the  
shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art  
with me: thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the pres-  
ence of mine enemies: thou anointest my  
head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the  
house of the LORD for ever.

*Verses 1-6*

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## "I'm Free"

Don't grieve for me now, I'm free.  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took his hand when I heard Him call.  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work, or play.  
Task left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I've savoured much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your hearts and share with me.  
God wanted me now,  
He Set Me Free!

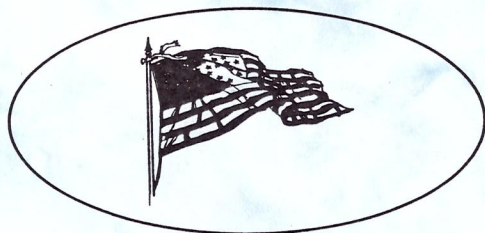
*Always and Forever!*

—Gordon Alston

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## *"When I Must Go"*

May the road  
    rise up to meet you.  
May the wind  
    be always at your back.  
May the sunshine  
    warm upon your face.  
And the rain  
    fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you  
    in the palm of his hand.

*A Friend*  
—Irene Chaky

## *Processional*

PRESIDING .....	Rev. Julius Abraham
SELECTION .....	Brannen Chapel United Methodist Church Choir
INVOCATION .....	Rev. Lee Jones
SCRIPTURES:	
Old Testament .....	Rev. Essie C. Simmons
New Testament .....	Rev. Brenda Inglehart
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH .....	#881
GLORIA PATRI .....	Page 71
SELECTION .....	Brannen Chapel United Methodist Church Male Chorus
TRIBUTES – (Limit 2 minutes please)	
Mr. Johnny Parrish, Chairman, Bulloch County Commission	
Mr. Anthony Simmons, Bulloch County Commissioner	
Mrs. Glarucia Blakely	
Mr. James W. Wilbon	
Mr. Woodard Lewis, Sr.	
MUSICAL TRIBUTE .....	Brannen Chapel Male Chorus-Soloist-Mr. Sidney Alston
RESOLUTIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	Mrs. Linda Nunnally
SOLO .....	Ms. Lealer Davis
CELEBRATORY WORD .....	Rev. Donald Mathis
RECESSIONAL	

*Repast-Elm Street Church of God, Elm Street*



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## Obituary

March 11, 1939 – February 29, 2004

### Mr. Gordon Alston

Gordon Alston was born March 11, 1939 to James and Willie Alston, Sr. in Littleton, North Carolina. He departed this life on Sunday, February 29, 2004, at the St. Joseph's/Candler Hospital, Savannah, Georgia.

He attended school and graduated from Melver High School. He attended North Carolina A & T State University and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology in 1960 and graduated from the ROTC Program as a 2nd Lieutenant.

He was an active member of the Brannen Chapel United Methodist Church. He was a teacher and Superintendent of Sunday School, a certified Lay Leader, Worship Leader, Vice President of the Brannen Chapel Male Chorus, past member of the Board of Trustees, on the Finance Committee of South Georgia Annual Conference, president of the Methodist Men and Coordinator of the Prison Ministries.

He was retired from Georgia Southern University as Assistant Financial Aid Director for 28 years and was retained as a consultant in Financial Aid matters. He was President of the Charity and Goodwill Independent Society, a member of the Black Elected Officials, Coastal Georgia Development and the Regional Development Authority. He was the first African American elected Commissioner of Bulloch County, where he served the people of the community for 20 years. He was also a member

of the Bulloch County Chapter of the N. A. A. C. P. He was Funeral Director for Payton's Mortuary for almost 35 years.

He is survived by a daughter, Ms. Anna Alston of Statesboro, Ga.; three sons and daughter-in-law, Sidney (Connie) Alston, Courtney Alston and Andre' Alston all of Statesboro, Ga.; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Mrs. Ellen A. Mitchell of Newark, Del., Mrs. Mudy A. (Charlie) Stone of Durham, N. C. and Mrs. Joyce A. (Norman) Scott of Baltimore, Md.; three brothers and sisters-in-law, William D. (Willa) Alston of Seaford, Del., Linwood (Mary) Alston of Richmond, Va. And Horace Alston of Littleton, N. C.; five grandchildren, JaRissa Smith, Claire Alston, Nick Wedlow, Henry Wedlow and Courtney Alston, Jr. all of Statesboro, Ga.; a great-grandson, Freddale Zion Brown of Statesboro, Ga.; a special friend, Mrs. Mary Parrish of Statesboro, Ga.; several nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

### Acknowledgement...



*The family would like to acknowledge and extend blessings to the many friends, family, and to the church family that consistently proved the meaning of true Christianity and those who have come to say good-bye...*

Perhaps you made a comforting call, or sat quietly in a chair.  
Perhaps you sent a card, telegram, or flowers – If so, we saw it there.  
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.  
Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us this day.  
Whatever you did to console our hearts,  
We thank you so much, whatever the part, and and God bless each of you.

– The Family of Gordon Alston

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## *Honorary Pallbearers*

Bulloch County Board of Commissioners  
Brannen Chapel United Methodist Church Board of Trustees  
Brannen Chapel United Methodist Church Male Chorus

## *Active Pallbearers*

William Alston  
Linwood Alston  
Jonathan Mitchell  
Kevin Jones

Nick Wedlow  
Dewitt Love  
Henry Wedlow  
Gary Mosley

## *Floral Attendants*

Youth Department of the Brannen Chapel United Methodist Church

A Service by Payton's Mortuary, Statesboro, Georgia  
34 Van Buren Street  
P.O. Box 452  
Statesboro, GA 30459-0458  
912-764-2823

Programs donated by  
Press Express  
24 South Zetterower Ave.  
Statesboro, GA 30458  
912-764-6291

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